IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 thru 49 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add claims 50 thru 61 as follows:

Claims 1-49. (Canceled)

1 50. (New) An apparatus for detecting abnormalities, said apparatus comprising:

2 a plurality of heads for recording data onto a medium and reproducing data from the

3 medium;

4 a controlling unit for controlling said plurality of heads to reproduce a signal from the

5 medium while the signal is being recorded onto the medium; and

6 a determining unit for determining an abnormality in the recorded signal in dependence

7 upon a result obtained when comparing the signal reproduced from the medium with a reference

8 signal.

1 51. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said determining unit compares a signal

2 level of an envelope of the signal reproduced from the medium with a reference signal level.

1 52. (New) An apparatus for detecting abnormalities, said apparatus comprising:

2 a plurality of heads for recording data onto a medium and reproducing data from the

3 medium;

4 a controlling unit for controlling said plurality of heads to reproduce a signal from the

5   medium while the signal is being recorded onto the medium; and

6   a determining unit for determining an abnormality in the recorded signal in dependence

7   upon the signal reproduced from the medium;

8   said plurality of heads comprising:

9   a first head formed on a head drum with said first head having a first azimuth angle;

10   a second head formed on the head drum with said second head having a second

11   azimuth angle different from said first azimuth angle; and

12   a third head formed on the head drum and disposed between said first and second

13   heads.

1   53. (New) An apparatus for detecting abnormalities, said apparatus comprising:

2   a head drum having a plurality of heads formed thereon;

3   a controlling unit for controlling said plurality of heads to reproduce a signal from the

4   medium while the signal is being recorded onto the medium; and

5   a determining unit for determining an abnormality in the recorded signal in dependence

6   upon the signal reproduced from the medium;

7   said plurality of heads comprising:

8   a first head having a first azimuth angle for recording first information, selected

9   from the data, onto the medium;

10   a second head having a second azimuth angle different from said first azimuth angle

11   for recording second information, selected from the data, onto the medium;

12   said first and second heads being respectively formed at separate locations of said

13   head drum; and

14   a third head for reproducing third information from the medium, said third

15   information corresponding to information selected from the first information and the

16   second information, said third head being formed on an outer surface of said head drum

17   and between said first and second heads.

1   54. (New) The apparatus of claim 53, said determining unit determining the abnormality

2   in the recorded signal in dependence upon a result obtained by comparing the signal reproduced

3   from the medium with a reference signal.

1   55. (New) A method for detecting an abnormality of a recorded signal, comprising the

2   steps of:

3   recording a signal onto a medium;

4   reproducing the signal from the medium while the signal is being recorded onto the

5   medium; and

6   determining an abnormality of the recorded signal in dependence upon a result obtained

7   by comparing the signal reproduced from the medium with a reference signal.

1   56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the determining step is carried out by

2   comparing a signal level of an envelope of the reproduced signal with a reference signal level.

1   57. (New) A digital recorder and player, comprising:

2   a plurality of heads comprising:

3   a first head formed on a head drum;

4   a second head formed on the head drum; and

5   a third head formed on the head drum and disposed between said first and second

6   heads;

7   said plurality of heads recording digital data onto a medium and reproducing data from the

8   medium, said heads reproducing a digital signal from the medium while the digital signal is being

9   recorded onto the medium by at least one of said heads; and

10   a determining unit determining an abnormality in the recorded signal in dependence upon

11   the digital signal reproduced from the medium;

1   58. (New) The digital recorder and player of claim 57, wherein said first head and said

2   second head are each formed on an outer surface of the head drum.

1   59. (New) A recording and reproducing apparatus, comprising:

2   a controller for outputting first and second switching signals;

3   a first switch operating in response to said first switching signal, said operating of said first

4   switch activating a first head to record first data onto a medium; and

5   a second switch operating in response to said second switching signal, said operating of

6   said second switch activating a second head to reproduce second data from the medium during said

7   recording of said first data, said second data corresponding to said first data recorded on the

8   medium, said second data reproduced from said medium being substantially identical to said first

9   data recorded onto said medium when abnormalities are not present.

1   60. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, further comprising:

2   a comparator for comparing predetermined reference data to said second data, and for

3   outputting an alert signal to notify a user when said predetermined reference data is not

4   substantially equal to said second data.

1   61. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, said comparator not outputting said alert signal

2   when said predetermined reference data is substantially equal to said second data.